



2019 Release of FBI Uniform Crime Reports for Oregon

Oregon Criminal Justice Commission

28 September 2020

On Monday September 28, 2020, the FBI released the 2019 Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) for Oregon and all other states in the US. This report, titled *Crime in the United States, 2019*, shows the number of violent index and property index crimes reported in all states.¹

Violent index crimes include murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Of these, aggravated assault is the most common violent index crime and usually has the most effect on the violent index crime rate.

Property index crimes include burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft. The most common property index crime is larceny-theft, of which approximately 75% are misdemeanors. Larceny-theft is the crime that usually has the largest effect on the index property crime rate.

Table 1 shows the change in the violent index crime rate from 2018 to 2019. The Oregon total violent index crime rate dropped 2.1 percent, but the murder rate increased by almost 34 percent. Specifically, there were 116 murders in 2019, compared to 86 in 2018. The aggravated assault rate for Oregon increased by 4.4 percent, while rates for rape and robbery decreased. Specifically, rape decreased 16.6 percent and robbery by 10.3 percent. Oregon's patterns were somewhat similar to those seen in the Western US² as well as in the US as a whole. The Western States saw an overall drop in violent crime of 2.7 percent, while the US Total violent crime dropped by one percent.

Table 1. Change in Violent Index Crime Rates from 2018 to 2019

Violent Index Crime	Oregon	Western US*	US Total
Murder	33.7%	-2.9%	-0.2%
Rape	-16.6%	-5.8%	-3.2%
Robbery	-10.3%	-5.3%	-5.2%
Aggravated Assault	4.4%	-1.1%	0.8%
Index Violent Crime Total	-2.1%	-2.7%	-1.0%

Table 2. Change in Property Index Crime Rates from 2018 to 2019

Property Index Crime	Oregon	Western US*	US Total
Burglary	-11.6%	-10.0%	-9.9%
Larceny-Theft	-5.2%	-3.4%	-3.3%
Motor Vehicle Theft	-9.8%	-9.3%	-4.4%
Index Property Crime Total	-6.7%	-5.4%	-4.5%

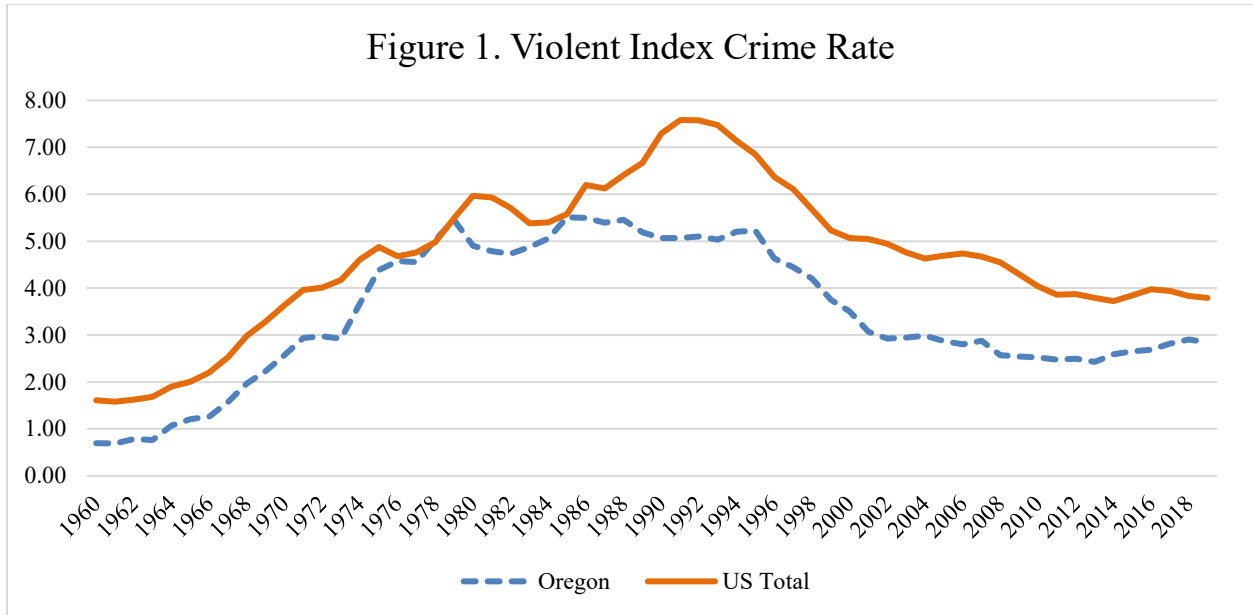
Table 2 reports the change in the property index rate from 2018 to 2019. The Oregon total property index crime rate dropped by 6.7 percent. Larceny-theft dropped by 5.2

percent, while motor vehicle theft dropped 9.8 percent. The most significant change in Oregon was for burglary, which dropped 11.6 percent from 2018 to 2019. This drop in index property crime was not limited to Oregon, as Western States and the US as a whole saw overall drops in property crime as well. The Western States saw a drop in property crime of 5.4 percent, while the US Total dropped by 4.5 percent.

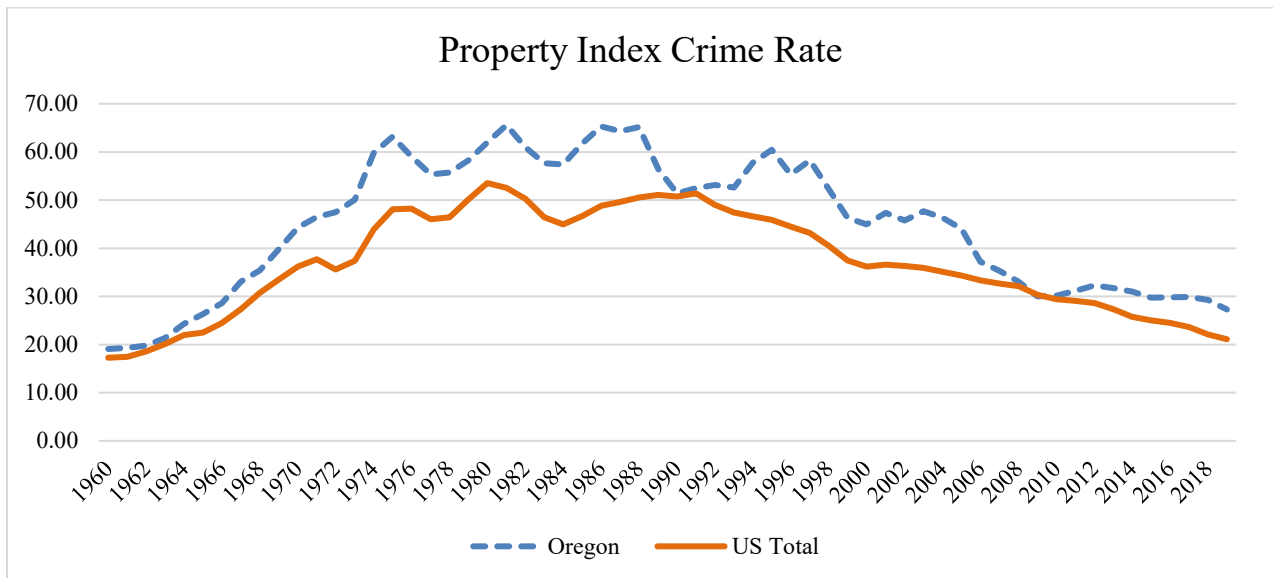
¹ <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019>

² The FBI defines the Western US Region as Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

To provide additional context over a longer time period, Figures 1 and 2 display the violent and property index crime rates for Oregon and the US Total over the last 59 years from 1960 to 2019. Both the Oregon and US Total violent index crime rate has dropped substantially since the 1990s, with Oregon’s rate historically lower than the US Total. Oregon’s violent index crime rate dropped 24 percent from 1999 to 2019, while the nationwide rate dropped nearly 28 percent. As of 2019, Oregon ranks 36th in the nation for the violent index crime rate.



The property index crime rate also dropped substantially since the 1990s in Oregon as well as in US as a whole. Unlike violent crime, Oregon’s property crime rate has historically been higher than the US Total. From 1999 to 2019, Oregon’s property index crime rate dropped 41 percent, while the nationwide rate dropped nearly 44 percent. In 2019, Oregon ranks 8th in the nation for the property index crime rate.



The FBI also released the Preliminary Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), which includes reported crime data from the first 6 months of 2020 for cities with a population over 100,000³. This preliminary report provides a first look at reported crime since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Table 3 displays crime counts for the first six months of 2020 compared to the first 6 months of 2019. This is the first year the city of Bend is included in the preliminary report. The city of Hillsboro is not included due to a delay in reporting. The 5 City Total for Oregon shows substantial drops in violent and property crime. Violent index crime is down 12 percent compared to the first six months of 2019, while the Western US is down 1.1 percent and nationwide is down 0.4 percent. The property crime index is down 9.8 percent, compared to a 5.3 percent drop in the Western US and a 7.8 percent drop nationwide.

Table 3. January to June FBI Preliminary UCR, 2019 and 2020

Location	Violent Crime			Property Crime		
	2019	2020	% Change	2019	2020	% Change
Bend	88	91	3.4%	967	926	-4.2%
Eugene	310	335	8.1%	2,787	3,229	15.9%
Gresham	227	228	0.4%	1,692	1,433	-15.3%
Portland	1,767	1,488	-15.8%	16,841	14,596	-13.3%
Salem	336	258	-23.2%	3,562	3,138	-11.9%
5 City Total	2,728	2,400	-12.0%	25,849	23,322	-9.8%
Western US*	N/A	N/A	-1.1%	N/A	N/A	-5.3%
US Total	N/A	N/A	-0.4%	N/A	N/A	-7.8%



³ <https://crime-data-explorer.fr.cloud.gov/explorer/national/united-states/prelim-quarter>